

# BEN RAY ON THE ISSUES

## PUSH BACK: Guaranteed Salaries for People “Unwilling to Work”

**FACT: Ben Ray Luján does not support guaranteed salaries for people who are unwilling to work.**

- Ben Ray Luján was raised to understand the value of hard work and he does not support — nor has he ever voted for — guaranteed salaries for people who refuse to work.
- Mark Ronchetti’s lie about guaranteed salaries has been proven false by multiple independent fact check groups like factcheck.org, *Dallas Morning News*, *Business Insider* and *The Washington Post*.
- The resolution Ronchetti is referencing **does not** contain any language about guaranteed salaries.
- Ronchetti is relying on a document published by a different member of Congress, not the resolution Ben Ray sponsored. Luján never supported or put his name on this false document, which was mistakenly published and quickly retracted..
- Luján believes in the dignity of a paycheck. That’s why he has fought in Congress to create jobs for New Mexicans, secure money for our national labs, and support New Mexico’s small businesses.

## PUSH BACK: Ben Ray’s Accomplishments

**FACT: 29 bills by Ben Ray Luján have become law.**

- Mark Ronchetti’s claim that Ben Ray has never passed a bill is a lie.
- Every year, Congress passes big packages of law (like the Farm Bill) that include many individual bills and policy proposals.
- Ben Ray’s bills have been included in these packages — showing his skill at working across the aisle and collaborating with others.
- Mark Ronchetti often talks about the 77 bills that Pete Domenici had passed into law during his 36 years in the Senate. Ben Ray — who has served for 12 years — has great respect for Sen. Domenici, and hopes that if he has the honor to serve for the same period, he will be able to deliver the same results.

## **PUSH BACK: Military Pay Raises**

**FACT: Ben Ray Luján has voted many times to increase military pay.**

- Mark Ronchetti's decision to lie about an important issue like military pay is very disappointing.
- Ben Ray has voted many times to increase military pay.
- In 2018, Republicans introduced a 2,000-page bill to fund the federal government and gave legislators less than 24 hours to read the bill and decide how they wanted to vote.
- The Republican bill included a pay raise for the military, but also provisions that would have hurt New Mexican families.
- The entire New Mexico House Delegation, including current Republican Party of New Mexico Chair Steve Pearce, voted against this harmful bill.
- Ben Ray has never voted for a Congressional pay raise.

## **PUSH BACK: Body Armor for Troops**

**FACT: Ben Ray voted for military body armor.**

- Protecting our military is very important to Ben Ray.
- Mark Ronchetti's claim that Ben Ray stopped body armor from getting to our troops is a lie.
- In 2012, Republicans introduced a military spending bill that would have weakened safety protections at Los Alamos National Laboratory.
- After an initial vote, Ben Ray worked to remove the parts of the bill that would have hurt LANL.
- Ben Ray voted for the final version of the bill, which provided our troops with body armor.

## PUSH BACK: Small Businesses

**FACT: Ben Ray Luján is the only candidate for U.S. Senate who has worked to help New Mexico's small businesses and families stay afloat during COVID-19.**

- Mark Ronchetti's claim that Ben Ray blocked pandemic funding to small businesses is a lie.
- Ben Ray worked across the aisle to pass the CARES Act, which included funding for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans to small businesses.
- When money for PPP loans ran out, Ben Ray worked to get more money for the program.
- Ben Ray has worked to pass COVID-19 relief packages through the House — but instead of working to pass these packages into law, Mitch McConnell has blocked them from even getting a vote. Ben Ray is running for Senate to get the job done and deliver the relief New Mexicans need.
- Mitch McConnell — the leader of Mark Ronchetti's party and a big donor to his campaign — has blocked funding for small businesses in the HEROES acts.
- Mark Ronchetti opposes additional federal money to help New Mexico's communities recover from the pandemic. When asked if he would support federal funding for New Mexico he replied "No. I would not", and implied it was a "bailout"

## PUSH BACK: Health Care

**FACT: Ben Ray Luján has worked to lower the cost of health care and make prescription drugs more affordable.**

- Ben Ray worked to pass the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and create protections for people with pre-existing conditions. Before the ACA passed, New Mexico had the highest uninsured rate in the country.
- Ben Ray introduced the State Public Option Act, which would allow New Mexicans to buy into Medicaid if private health insurance is too expensive for them.
- Mark Ronchetti wants to get rid of the Affordable Care Act, which would end protections for people with pre-existing conditions.

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- Under Mark Ronchetti's health care plan, 245,000 New Mexicans would lose their insurance.
- Mark Ronchetti supports privatizing Medicare, which would raise costs for seniors and shrink the number of doctors they can see.
- Ben Ray will always work to lower the cost of health care and make sure that no family has to choose between seeing a doctor and putting food on the table.